

NEWS RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2012

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Republican River Basin Study Selected for 2012 WaterSMART Program Grant

Seeking options to evaluate various management opportunities within the Republican River Basin, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, along with the States of Colorado and Kansas, submitted a proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Under the Bureau's highly competitive WaterSMART program, the Republican River Basin Study will receive a \$413,000 grant to study water supplies, demands, and management options in the Republican River Basin.

The Republican River Basin Study is one of five projects that the Bureau will fund in 2012. The Study will provide a comprehensive review of four areas central to the WaterSMART initiative: evaluation of current and potential future water supplies and water demands, analysis of existing infrastructure, analysis of water management options, and trade-off analysis of those management options. The Study includes Colorado and Kansas as it is designed as a comprehensive view of the entire basin system. When asked about the grant award, Department Director Brian Dunnigan said, *"I am very excited about the collaborative water management opportunities that these types of studies present. My staff and I look forward to working closely with the Bureau, Kansas, Colorado, and other basin stakeholders to develop tools and analyses to assist in basin management."* The Study will begin immediately with project completion expected in two years.

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